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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 2 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the communiqué of five Central Asian States adopted by the participants of the United Nations Regional Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central Asia, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 16 to 18 March 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 73, 108 and 156, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**

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Annex to the letter dated 2 April 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Communiqué of five Central Asian States adopted during the United Nations Regional Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central Asia

16-18 March 2004
Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan

The United Nations Regional Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central Asia was held in Almaty from 16 to 18 March 2004. The Meeting was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, sponsored by the Government of Japan and organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.

Delegations from the countries of the Central Asian and Asia-Pacific region, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Republic of Kazakhstan, and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting.

The Meeting heard presentations by representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, experts from Afghanistan, the Republic of Indonesia, and Japan, the United Nations Development Programme, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, the Australian Member Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, the International Crisis Group, and International Alert.

During the three days of sessions of the Meeting, a meaningful exchange of views took place on strengthening regional cooperation aimed at the prevention of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Having discussed possible ways of enhancing coordination among law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies of the Central Asian States, the participants in the Meeting noted the need to intensify their cooperation. In particular, an understanding was reached concerning the adoption of joint actions including:

(a) Investigations to identify and close smuggling channels and to eradicate all other forms of illegal export/import of these weapons from/to Central Asia;

(b) Take preventive measures to preclude theft and loss of small arms and ammunition from depots, arsenals, restricted areas and other arms storage facilities;

(c) Develop international and regional cooperation between law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies of the Central Asian States to monitor transitional flows of illicit small arms and light weapons;

(d) Investigate and suppress crimes related to the illicit trade of arms, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and organized crime;

(e) Establish a mechanism for regular exchanges of relevant information, which may include illicit brokering of small arms in the region;

(f) Foster cooperation with the United Nations with a view to implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

The participants of the Regional Meeting have confirmed the leading role of the United Nations in the implementation of a comprehensive solution to the problem of small arms and light weapons and supported the coordinating role of the United Nations in this area, first and foremost in dealing with the problem of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

The representatives of the Central Asian States and the participants of the Meeting came to the conclusion that the Regional Meeting on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 16 to 18 March 2004, made an important contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 9-20 July 2001).

The participants of the Regional Meeting have expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the excellent arrangement of the Meeting as well as the hospitality rendered to the participants.

Almaty
18 March 2004